

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S 128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S 128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George V. Voinovich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Byrd, and Ranking Members Cochran and Voinovich,

We are writing today to emphasize the need for rapid action to appropriate supplemental funds for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We ask that you fully fund President Obama's supplemental request of \$5.1 billion.

As you know, the DRF funds payments that allow communities and individuals to respond to and recover from disasters, and to reduce damages from future disasters. Those receiving payments from the DRF are among the most in need of assistance in our country, and it is important that funds be available to help them recover as soon as they are able.

In our own state of North Dakota, we saw in 2009 the worst flooding we have ever experienced. Many local governments have still not fully recovered, and are facing the threat of another serious flood in 2010. For them, it is critical to be as prepared as they can be for a potential 2010 disaster. That means resolving home buyouts, road repairs, and other measures that will not be payable until the DRF is supplemented.

We urge you to act quickly to address this issue.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senate



Kent Conrad  
United States Senate